GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
REVIEW OF NREGS
Mollah Shri Hannan;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of violation of guidelines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(b) the details of the complaints received about corruption in implementation of the scheme and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the progress made under NREGS;

(d) if so, the details of the findings; and

(e) the instructions issued to various States to streamline the performance and to achieve the objectives of the schemes?

Answer

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)&(b): Cases of violation of guidelines and financial irregularities in the implementation of NREGA have been reported to the Ministry. State-wise details of the cases pending with the State Governments along with the action taken there on by the Ministry have been put on the web site www.nrega.nic.in under the heading `Complaints`. CAG in its draft report on the performance audit of the implementation of NREGA conducted in 68 NREGA districts for the year 2006-07 has given its findings in this regard. The draft report has been examined in the Ministry and has also been shared with all the States. States have given their responses to the observations made by CAG in the draft report. These have been sent to CAG. State responses are in the process of examination by CAG for finalisation of the performance audit report of NREGA.

(c): Yes, Sir. Review of the progress of the implementation of NREGA is done on regular basis. NREGA has been reviewed at the highest level in Prime Minister`s review meeting on 20.6.2007. Performance Review Committee meetings are undertaken bythe Minister of Rural Development and Secretary (Rural Development) from time to time. During the year 2007-2008, three Regional Review Committee meetings have been held to cover review of all States. These were held at Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati and Jaipur. A Central Employment Guarantee Council was constituted on 22.9.2006 to review and monitor the implementation of the Act. The Council has so far held four meetings and reviewed the implementation of NREGA. Members of the Council also conduct field visits in various States to oversee the progress of the Act. An Executive Committee constituted under the Central Council reviewed the progress of the Act in its meetings held on 16.8.2007 and 5.2.08. Review meeting with State Secretaries (Rural Development) of all States was held on 18.12.07 in Delhi. Meeting of the Performance review Committee was also held in Delhi during 16-17 January, 2008.

Progress of NREGA was also reviewed in the interactive session with Members of Parliament held during August-September, 2007. National Level Monitors (NLMs) and Area Officers of the Ministry visit various districts to oversee the progress of the Act. The Area Officers have been directed to cover 10 villages during their each visit. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up to review the implementation of the Act.

(d): The issues that have emerged during these reviews relate to
(i) timely payment of wages,
(ii) timely measurement,
(iii) regular monitoring and supervision and
(iv) record maintenance and grievance redressal.

(e): States have been instructed to take following measures to achieve the objectives and to streamline the performance of the Scheme.

(i) Generating Awareness

(ii) Deployment of adequate Staff with the implementing agencies and their Training

(iii) People`s Participation in generating awareness

(iv) Vigilance and Monitoring

(v) Transparency

(vi) MIS

(vii) Regular reviews